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**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR HONORED**

***Lebanon VA Medical Center Recognizes the Service and Sacrifice of Former POWs***

LEBANON – September 16, 2013 –

On Friday, September 19, the Lebanon VA Medical Center will host a ceremony to honor the service and sacrifices of former American Prisoners of War (POWs) and to honor those who remain Missing in Action (MIA). The ceremony will take place at the medical center's chapel beginning at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker this year is US Army Veteran and Indiantown Gap National Cemetery Director, James R. Metcalfe II. Veterans, loved ones, and the public are invited to attend.

American POWs often endured extreme hardship during their captivity. More than 17,000 died in captivity. Those who did, are remembered by those who survived, as well as, their loved ones. Approximately 130,000 US personnel were POWs in World War II; 7,200 in the Korean War, 725 during the Vietnam War; and 47 American personnel were POWs during the Gulf War. The Department of Defense also estimates that more than 83,000 Americans remain MIA from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War and the 1991 Gulf War.

Former POWs have a unique status in VA healthcare. For more information about their status and benefits, call the Former Prisoner of War Advocate at 717-272-6621x4766.

Mr. Metcalfe was appointed as the Director of Indiantown Gap National Cemetery May 27, 2007. He is responsible for all burial, administrative, and maintenance operations at the cemetery. Prior to his appointment he served as the Director of the Quantico National Cemetery in Virginia since August 2006. During his military service, Metcalfe served in Bosnia as a member of the Quartermaster Corps.

Lebanon VA Medical Center is one of 152 medical centers across the United States which are dedicated to serving the unique needs of America's Veterans. The VA is the largest health care system in the country, using state of the art technology to improve the health of Veterans from every generation. Every Veteran enrolled in VA healthcare meets the Affordable Care Act standards for possessing health care coverage.

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